

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending. Claims 1-13 are rejected. Claims 2, 3, and 14 have been canceled.

Double Patenting

Claims 1-12 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 16-20 of co-pending Application Serial No. 10/185,558. An appropriate Terminal Disclaimer has been submitted with this Response. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-12 on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting should be removed.

Claim Objections

Page 1 of the Office Action indicates that claims 14-16 are objected to. Since no other grounds of rejection have been provided for claims 14-16, independent claim 13 has been rewritten to incorporate the limitations recited in claim 14. It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that claims 13-16 are now in complete condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application No. 2001/0034782 to Kinkade et al. (hereinafter “Kinkade”) in view of U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0114305 to Oyama et al. (hereinafter “Oyama”). Independent claim 1 has been rewritten to incorporate the limitations recited in dependent claims 2 and 3. Likewise, as discussed hereinabove, independent claim 13 has been rewritten to incorporate the limitations of claim 14. It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that independent claims 1 and 13 as rewritten are allowable over the art of record.

CONCLUSION

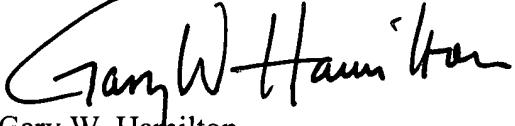
In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant requests that a Notice of Allowance be issued. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at 512-338-9100.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on February 15, 2006.



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Respectfully submitted,


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